



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

APR 28 2014

**SUBJECT: Scoping Letter for Environmental Assessment and Notice of
Floodplain and Wetland Action for Western's Parker-Headgate Rock
and Parker-Bouse Reroute Project (DOE/EA-1987)**

Dear Interested Party:

This letter invites you to be involved in and provide input on environmental issues associated with the above-mentioned Federal action, which is further described below.

Western Area Power Administration (Western) is a Federal power-marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that operates and maintains transmission lines and associated facilities. Western proposes to rebuild the existing Parker Dam-Headgate Rock and Parker Dam-Bouse 161-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines along the Colorado River in western Arizona and eastern California due to the poor condition of the structures and encroachments on the transmission line right-of-ways (ROW). The existing 161-kV transmission lines are part of the Parker-Davis System.

Western's proposed action would include rerouting and rebuilding two single-circuit 161-kV transmission lines to a new double-circuit 230-kV transmission line (refer to Figure 1 attached to this letter). The proposed action would also include construction and improvement of access roads, construction of a 6-acre laydown area, and the addition of overhead fiber optic cables. The new 230-kV double-circuit transmission line would likely utilize some existing ROW, but would be mostly constructed on new ROW. Once the new 230-kV double-circuit transmission lines are constructed and energized, the old lines and wood poles would be removed.

Western proposes this project to address encroachments and development since the lines were constructed, as well as safety and reliability issues. The lines were installed in the 1950s with wood pole H-frame structures. Many of the structures are in poor condition and present a potential safety issue to workers and the continued reliability of the transmission lines. Several encroachments on the ROW have occurred over the years making it difficult to access the line for maintenance, and presenting potential issues with public safety.

We would like to know of any issues, concerns and suggestions you may have regarding the project. Your comments will help define issues and alternatives for consideration in the environmental review process. Comments can be provided in writing (via email or U.S. Mail, or in person at the public open house scoping meeting [information below]).

Please submit your comments by June 17, 2014.

Mail: Western Area Power Administration
ATTN.: Johnida Dockens, NEPA Document Manager
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005
Email: DSW-PADHDR-Reroute@wapa.gov

Western will host a public open house to allow the public and interested parties an opportunity to learn about the project, the NEPA process, and ask questions. The meeting will be held at the following date, time, and location.

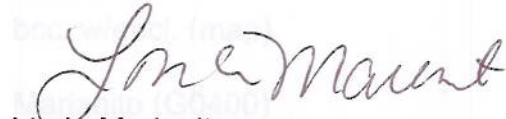
Tuesday June 3, 2014, 6:00–8:00 pm
Blue Water Resort and Casino
11300 Resort Drive,
Parker, AZ 85344

Additional information and project documents can also be found on the project website at:

<http://www.wapa.gov/dsw/environment/PADHDR-Rebuild.htm>

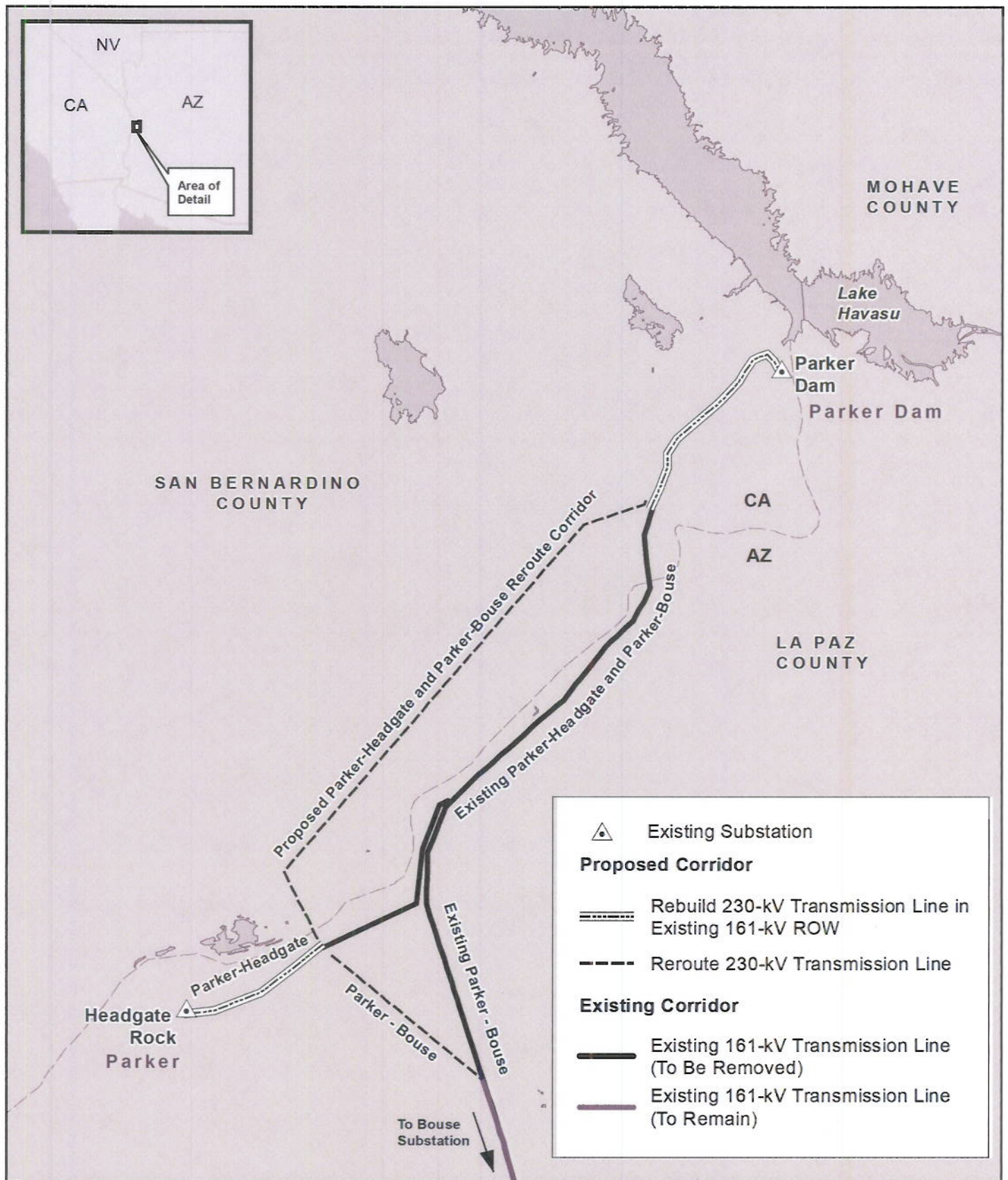
We look forward to receiving your comments on this project and hope that you will be able to attend the public scoping meeting.

Sincerely,



Linda Marianito
Environmental Manager

Enclosure (map)



Parker-Headgate Rock and Parker-Bouse Reroute Project

Overview Map

